

Palazzo Parisani S. Claudio
Rome

April 6

1861

My dear Tom

You'll be glad to have a Roman view

from me altho' it must be short as I am in
the midst of business & the departure Mr. Newton
gives me opportunity —

I am now well "in my saddle" & the great
variety of things rather please than not, for I
am equal to any amount of business & have
just had four rooms with divers persons in
them all with individual affairs going on
so I went from room to room, whilst my
Secretary & Advocate & my Son Arthur were
helping — Nothing as yet comes amiss except my
const-drops disword, for I do not know myself in
it — The translating documents into English has
been my hardest labour, particularly the Pope's
allocation which I dare say you saw & thought
of me — My appointment has caused very great
envy for there are no end of people here who

were candidates - It has been ~~so~~ ⁱⁿ still, a great pleasure to meet dear old friends for friendships in Rome "are a joy for ever" & I have been so warmly received that Rome seems to me dearer than ever as I rise very early there is plenty of time for my Miss I soon hope to begin my painting, when most of the English disappear then I shall have a sinecure for 6 months, so up to this I have not done any thing but a few the duties of my new office in this I am fortunate in having a most excellent Secretary who was with Mr. Weston, a young ^{Roman} ~~Baron~~ who is just of age & writes Italian, French & English so that many of my letters I have only to sign

I have had my usual luck in a house I have room for all the Servants if by chance they should give me the happiness of a visit indeed I hope that it may be something more than a visit in some way, for although as yet I don't venture to feel my power & resources, yet I see that in a short time ~~but~~ I shall have a capital standing But here all is uncertainty, no one can

we guess what is to transpire - the City is
full of French soldiers, every monastery is now
a barracks & you see monks & soldiers, shoul-
ding each other, what a marvelous state of
things, what an important moment, what
a crisis, almost bursting with the future
as yet I have not sought an audience with
the Pope but now it must come off I am
proposing - Cardinal Antonelli received
me most graciously & assured me you accepte
my appointment as to the whole government
indeed I see here that every thing turns on
old, old, associations, so in this I stand
really well -

Just now I have had a most affecting
meeting with the sister, only sister of Keats
we discovered each other this morning -
for a long time we remained without being
able to speak, 'twas like a brother & sister
who had parted in early life, meeting after
66 years - how sicker that we should meet
in the very place where Keats died - his eldest
daughter is married to a Spanish engineer now
doing the Roman railways - & indeed her
family is Spanish a husband is a distinguished
Spanish amateur Poet & man of fortune -

Did you hear that I have had the felicity to meet
Keates sister here? - 'tis 45 years since I
once got a glance of her ⁽¹⁸¹⁶⁾. She is married
to a Spanish gentleman (Don Llanos) & has
3 daughters & one son, all charming people
remained here for her son in law Mr. Brockman
is the chief ~~Engineer~~ of the Roman railways
& is of vast use in P. O. enquiries I have to
make - Then my Roman f.d. help me much

Many old friends are still turning up -
Overbeck has been 51 years in Rome, Gibson
43 - & health & longevity are decidedly
characteristics of Rome. & you know I did
not expect to become vain or proud at my
elevation, & I was right for I still feel very
humble altho' I am called "Your Excellency"
So on ^{humility} this makes me think I may in
some degree excel. You know that brother
is with me at present studying languages
& mathematics & we get on well together
but he is dreadfully fond of painting & doing
such bad things - Rome is like a besieged
city, all the monasteries are turned into
barracks & the Convents too with the Nuns
partitioned off - nobody can say what is to come
My appointment caused great envy & there are
here many bitter opponents, but I keep out of
their way ~~as far as I can afford to do so~~ - God bless you
my dear Maria believe me ever your loving brother J. C.